

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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SUBJECT: 55TH ECOSOC - PLENARY - PM 6 JULY

1. GENERAL DEBATE CONTINUED WITH THREE SPEAKERS - CHILE, UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. THE VERBOSITY OF THE FIRST TWO WAS NEATLY CONTRASTED WITH THE BREVITY OF THE THIRD.

2. CHILE (SANTA CRUZ) LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY LITANY OF THE SINS OF THE UN SYSTEM AND ITS FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT PLIGHT OF DEVELOPING WORLD GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE, MAINLY AS RESULT OF LACK OF POLITICAL WILL ON PARTY OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WITH ONLY THE NETHERLANDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER'S SPEECH, HOLDING OUT REAL HOPE FOR A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE. HE CITED SUCCESS OF TERRITORIAL SEAS CONCEPT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF DRASTIC MEASURES THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE FORCED TO UNDERTAKE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. HE FORESAW LITTLE OF VALUE COMING OUT OF THE FORTHCOMING GATT NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS EQUALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE UN SYSTEM TO MAKE IT MORE REPRESENTATIVE. MOST SUCH EFFORTS WERE EFFECTIVELY FRUSTRATED BY TACTICAL MANUEVERING AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, HE AGAIN

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USED ITT AS WHIPPING BOY, CITING EVIDENCE OF CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE

AS ADDITIONAL PROOF OF ITT'S INTENT TO SUBVERT CHILEAN POLITICAL PROCESS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT COMMISSION OF EMINENT PERSONS, IN THEIR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, MIGHT CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC DANGERS OF MULTINATIONALS AND OVERLOOK FAR MORE INSIDIOUS POLITICAL HAZARDS. HE WAS AT PAINS TO DEVELOP THE THESIS THAT CHILE HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO ECONOMIC BLOCKAGE BECAUSE OF ITS EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE OWN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM. FAR FROM BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FOR ITS EFFORTS AT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE, CHILE, LIKE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ATTEMPTING SAME THING, SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SPECIAL CASE DESERVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

3. IN HOUR-LONG STATEMENT, UNESCO SECRETARY GENERAL BEGAN BY POINTING OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES COULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE TO EFFECT MASSIVE IMPROVEMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY LACKED THE MEANS TO DO SO. LIKEWISE, DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WERE HAMPERED BY FAILURE OF COMMUNITY OF NATIONS TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO FUNDAMENTAL REASONS FOR GREAT AND GROWING INEQUITIES BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES. THIS TOO WAS BEYOND SCOPE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL UN AGENCY, ON IMPROVEMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, HE SAID IT ESSENTIAL THAT AID BE VIEWED FROM MEDIUM AND LONG TERM STANDPOINT AND NOT DISTORTED BY SHORT TERM CONSIDERATIONS. AID SHOULD NOT MERELY SERVE PURPOSES OF CONSOLIDATING STATUS QUO WITHIN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES BUT SHOULD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE CHANGE AIMED AT IMPROVING CAPACITY OF COUNTRIES TO USE AID. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE MUCH LARGER INPUT OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AS COMPARED TO AID THEY ARE RECEIVING, AID SHOULD THUS BE CHanneLED INTO THOSE AREAS WHICH MAXIMIZE LOCAL EFFORTS RATHER THAN OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THESE LOCAL NEEDS. FINALLY, AID SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CULTURAL AND NATIONAL TRADITIONS RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO IMPLANT NEW CONCEPTS AND PROCESSES IN THEIR UNDILUTED FOREIGN FORM. ON EDUCATION, HE CITED CHANGES FROM THE 60'S WHEN MERE INCREASES IN NUMBERS OF PERSONS EDUCATED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO NATIONAL NEEDS GENERATED ITS OWN SET OF PROBLEMS. INSTEAD THERE IS NEED TO RETHINK WHOLE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, PERHAPS USING AS STARTING POINT THE FAURE COMMISSION REPORT, "LEARNING TO BE". FINALLY HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY EXTENT TO WHICH CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, BY CONTRAST WITH EARLIER YEARS WHEN ONE SCARCELY

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DARED MENTION CULTURE IN THIS CONTEXT.

4. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO STATEMENT WAS BRIEF AND DEALT IN BEMUSED FASHION WITH SUCH PERENNIAL PROBLEMS AS OVERLY CUMBERSOME AGENDAS, MIND-BOGGLING DOCUMENTATION, AND NEED TO DISCUSS RELATED ITEMS ON AGENDA TOGETHER INSTEAD OF SEPARATELY. BASSIN

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